**Procurement price of ethanol**

5076. SHRINARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared three pilot projects for mixing of 5 per cent anhydrous alcohol (Gasohol) with petrol to make the vehicle fuel eco-friendly and that oil companies are purchasing anhydrous alcohol from distilleries; and

(b) if so, at what rate, the anhydrous alcohol was purchased and if the trials are successful, what is going to be the miximum quantity of mixing of . anhydrous alcohol with petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS<SHRISANTOSHGANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have not laid down any policy guideline with regard to purchase rate of alcohol from distilleries. It is procured from distilleries on the basis of open tenders. At present, as per BIS specification, only 5 per cent anhydrous ethanol can be mixed with petrol. However, a Task Force has been constituted to consider the feasibility of increasing its range from 5 per cent to 10 per cent.

**Retrenchments of contract labourers**

† 5077. MS. ALKABEN BALARAMBHAIKSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seniority/juniority norm is being followed in making retrenchments of contract labourers working in companies under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas after September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) to .(c) Oil Sector PSUs generally engage contract labourers through contractors who are their employer and accordingly, contractors are responsible to retain or retrench their labourers depending upon the requirement. Therefore, in the absence of employer-employee relationship retrenchment of contract labourer does not come within the ambit of oil sector PSUs as principal employer.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.